

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8, 10-14 and 17-33 stand in the present application, claims 24, 25, 28 and 29 having been amended. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 10-14, 17-23, 25 and 27-33, but respectfully submit that in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, that all of the claims now standing in the application are in condition for allowance.

More particularly, allowable claims 25, 28 and 29 have been rewritten in independent form and are therefore accordingly now in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 which had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) as being anticipated by Heinz has been further amended. Specifically, claim 24 has been amended to more clearly recite that the extensible member is disposed adjacent to and in longitudinal alignment with the electrically deformable element. This further limitation of claim 24 is believed to overcome the reason for the Examiner's rejection of the claim which is stated at page 2 of the present Office Action. More particularly, the Examiner noted that "Figure 10 of Heinz anticipates these claims because piston 18 is within extensible spring (48)." In view of the above-described claim amendment, it should be clear that claim 24 now more clearly recites that the extensible member is not disposed within the electrically deformable element. Accordingly, claim 24 and its dependent claim 26 are believed to patentably define over the cited reference.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 8, 10-14 and 17-33, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through

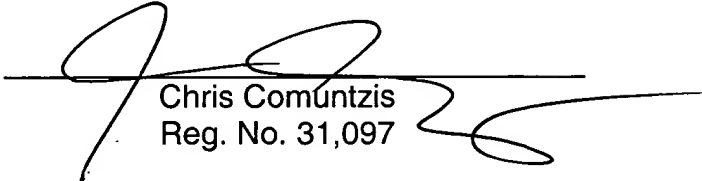
KATSURA et al
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either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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